



**FOREIGN  
BROADCAST  
INFORMATION  
SERVICE**

# ***Daily Report***

---

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

**FBIS-AFR-89-156  
Tuesday  
15 August 1989**

# Daily Report

## Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-89-156

### CONTENTS

15 August 1989

#### REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AFP: President Botha Announces Resignation .....	1
14 Aug Botha Resignation Speech [SAPA] .....	2
De Klerk, Pik Botha Interviewed [Johannesburg TV] .....	4
Acting President's Swearing in Planned for 15 Aug [SAPA] .....	6
Pik Botha: De Klerk New President [SAPA] .....	6
De Klerk Sworn in [SAPA] .....	6
News Conference Follows [Johannesburg Radio] .....	7
KaNgwane Congratulates De Klerk [SAPA] .....	7
Tutu Urges De Klerk Declare Post-Election Amnesty [Umtata Radio] .....	7
Defense Minister Discusses Cabinet Meeting [SAPA] .....	7
Pik Botha Comments on Resignation in Randburg [SAPA] .....	8
Further on Comments [Johannesburg TV] .....	8
Various National Figures Comment on Resignation .....	9
Buthlezi: Resignation Inevitable [SAPA] .....	9
United Democratic Front Reacts [SAPA] .....	9
Van zyl Slabbert Comments [SAPA] .....	9
Democrats Term Resignation 'Tragic' [SAPA] .....	10
Boeresiaat Party Reacts [SAPA] .....	10
Lebowa's Ramodike: Botha Set Example [Johannesburg Radio] .....	11
Solidarity's Reddy Comments [Johannesburg Radio] .....	11
SAPA Analyzes Botha Speech, Affect on Election .....	11
SAPA Reviews Constitution on Appointing President .....	12
BUSINESS DAY: Botha Resignation 'Relief' [15 Aug] .....	12
Botha Resignation 'Repercussions' Expected [THE CITIZEN 15 Aug] .....	13
De Klerk Must Prove Ability, Willingness to Reform [THE STAR 15 Aug] .....	14

**AFP: President Botha Announces Resignation**  
*NC1408183789 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT*  
14 Aug 89

[Text] Cape Town, Aug 14 (AFP)—South African President Pieter Botha Monday night announced his resignation on state-run television with effect from midnight (2200 GMT) Monday.

The bombshell announcement followed a dramatic showdown earlier Monday with members of his cabinet who, he said, "proposed" he quit his office.

The crisis was sparked when the president said he had not been properly informed about proposed talks in Zambia later this month involving National Party leader Frederik de Klerk, Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

The president erupted when news of the meeting was broadcast on television last Thursday, claiming it was the first he had heard of it. However, Mr. Pik Botha was adamant he had personally telephoned the president to brief him.

Following several acrimonious exchanges, the State President summoned his cabinet to Cape Town for an urgent meeting Monday morning.

No statements were issued after the three-hour showdown, but in his television address to the nation, President Botha said that at the meeting, cabinet ministers "proposed to me that I should depart for my private residence and appoint an acting state president until after 6 September (the date of parliamentary elections)."

"I asked them what reason I could offer for such a step. They replied that I could use my health as an excuse. To this I replied that I am not prepared to leave on a lie and I have consequently decided to submit my resignation to the Chief Justice today with effect from 15 August 1989."

Mr. Botha has been head of state since 1978, first as prime minister and since 1984, when a new constitution came into force, as president.

The president told the nation in his resignation address that he would not approve a visit to President Kaunda by ministers "at this stage".

He said the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement, which is engaged in an armed struggle against South Africa's white minority government, had its headquarters in Zambia.

"President Kaunda rejects the political/constitutional development in (South Africa) and attempts to promote the institution of extensive economic punitive measures against (South Africa)," Mr. Botha said.

"His action is evidently aimed at promoting the ANC's image abroad and at exerting pressure on the (South African) Government to transfer the power to the ANC.

"In this regard, President Kaunda has on various occasions indicated that he would be willing to act as mediator between the (South African) Government and the ANC in order to reach a settlement in (South Africa)."

Turning to the events leading up to his resignation, Mr. Botha said that according to government guidelines, ministers are entitled to official visits abroad, provided prior approval is obtained from the president.

"These arrangements are not technicalities. In fact it is the essence of trust between a head of state and ministers serving in his cabinet. To attempt to brush this aside as technicalities, is to play with the highest interests of the country."

He said that on June 2 he wrote to Mr. de Klerk: "I am informed of policy statements that completely ignore the state president. I am also informed of proposed foreign visits announced by you without complying with the prescribed rules for ministers in this regard."

The president said that Foreign Minister Botha telephoned him twice last Thursday, but on neither occasion did he mention the proposed Zambia trip.

"Shortly afterwards...I heard on television news that President Kaunda had announced that Mr. Botha and Mr. de Klerk would visit Zambia on 28 August to meet President Kaunda.

"That had not been cleared with me in terms of the ministerial rules...I immediately called Minister Botha...who was surprised to hear about it (Mr. Kaunda's statement) and said it would be rectified during the news broadcast."

The next morning he issued a statement to the effect that he was "not aware of the discussions on 28 August as announced by Dr. Kaunda".

"After this I received several telephone calls, inter alia from Minister Botha and Minister de Klerk. My viewpoint was that such a matter cannot be settled telephonically," the president said.

He said on Friday afternoon Mr. de Klerk sent him a telefax, asking him if he would meet a delegation of National Party ministers.

"In reply, I faxed the following letter to Mr. de Klerk: 'I am surprised to hear that you wish to organise a delegation of ministers. A meeting of the cabinet is being arranged for Monday morning, 14 August 1989 at 0830 at Tuynhuys (Mr. Botha's official residence).'"

He said of the meeting Monday: "I had discussions lasting a few hours with members of the Cabinet about my point of view. They all had the opportunity of putting forward their point of view. With their permission, a tape recording was made of proceedings.

"It is evident to me that after all these years of my best efforts for the National Party and for the government of this country as well as the security of our country, I am being ignored by ministers serving in my Cabinet. I consequently have no choice other than to announce my resignation."

#### 14 Aug Botha Resignation Speech

MB1408164389 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1639 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Cape Town August 14 SAPA—Herewith the full text of the statement by State President Mr P.W. Botha:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On the appointment of a minister, a copy of guidelines for ministers are presented to him. These guidelines have been applicable to all who have served in the cabinet since January 19, 1985.

According to those guidelines, ministers are entitled to official visits abroad where such visits are deemed essential in the national interest, provided that prior approval is obtained from the state president.

In view of the continuous nature of a minister's responsibilities within the republic, the extent and duration of foreign visits should be kept to the absolute minimum and should be so arranged that ministers are not absent from more than one cabinet meeting.

It must furthermore be so arranged that a minister and deputy minister are not abroad simultaneously. Ministers must also furnish copies of their proposed travel programmes to the state president's office for distribution.

These arrangements are not technicalities. In fact, it is the essence of trust between a head of state and ministers serving in his cabinet. To attempt to brush this aside as technicalities, is to play with the highest interests of the country.

I had reason to address the following in a letter to the minister of national education, Mr F.W. de Klerk on June 2, 1989. I quote from the letter: "I am informed of policy statements that completely ignore the state president. I am also informed of proposed foreign visits announced by you without complying with the prescribed rules for ministers in this regard."

I also wish to refer to a telephone conversation between colleague R.F. Botha and myself on Thursday, August 10. He phoned me that same morning from Pretoria to my private residence in Wilderness to inform me that friction has developed between certain African leaders.

He then asked me whether he could contact me that same evening, that is, Thursday, August 10 in Cape Town. I replied that it would be possible from half past five at Westbrooke.

He again phoned me at about six at Westbrooke to inform me that the discussions were progressing well and that it would not be necessary for Dr Savimbi to meet with me. I accepted that.

Shortly afterwards, at 8pm, I heard on television news that President Kaunda had announced that Mr Pik Botha and Mr F.W. de Klerk would visit Zambia on August 28 to meet President Kaunda.

That had not been cleared with me in terms of the ministerial rules to which I referred earlier.

I immediately called Minister Botha at the state guest house in Pretoria and referred to the statement by President Kaunda. He was surprised to learn about it and said that it would be rectified during the news broadcast.

I contacted several ministers on Thursday [10 August] night in this regard, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a satisfactory arrangement on these matters.

I consequently issued the following statement on August 11, and I quote: "In terms of the rules governing foreign journeys by ministers, I am not aware of the discussions on August 28 as announced by Dr Kaunda."

After this, I received several telephone calls, inter alia from Minister R.F. Botha and F.W. de Klerk, my viewpoint was that such a matter cannot be settled telephonically.

The ANC [African National Congress] is being orchestrated and organised from Lusaka. The ANC's head office, the NEC together with all the departments and sections represented thereon, as well as the commanding structure of the military wing, are permanently situated in Lusaka.

Zambia is the centre where the ANC plans and coordinates its military and political activities against the RSA. Besides the ANC headquarters and the various departments of the ANC in Lusaka, the ANC among others also has the following facilities in Zambia:

- Radio Freedom facilities in Lusaka for propaganda broadcasts against the RSA;
- A centre providing for the ANC's medical requirements and youth activities. This facility is also used as transit base;
- The main logistic facility of the ANC, situated in the Lilanda residential area in Lusaka;
- Printing facilities to meet some of the ANC's administrative requirements;
- Various farms and agricultural projects in the vicinity of Lusaka, for example Chongela Farm;
- A furniture factory known as Star Furnishers in Lusaka.

In addition to office facilities, accommodation is provided to senior commanding and control personnel of the ANC.

Zambia is also being used as thoroughfare to make infiltration into the RSA via various neighbouring states possible. Trained terrorists usually infiltrate from foreign countries into Zambia where they stop over for varying periods. From there, they are transferred to various neighbouring states as members of the various political/military structures.

President Kaunda rejects the political/constitutional development in the RSA and attempts to promote the institution of extensive economic punitive measures against the RSA. His action is evidently aimed at promoting the ANC's image abroad and at exerting pressure on the RSA Government to transfer the power to the ANC.

In this regard, President Kaunda has on various occasions indicated that he would be willing to act as mediator between the RSA Government and the ANC in order to reach a settlement in the RSA.

President Kaunda played an important role during the visit of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to southern Africa. President Kaunda furthermore uses his influence as chairman of the OAU and in Frontline States [FLS] context to advocate international pressure and economic punitive measures against the RSA.

President Kaunda is currently playing a key role, in cooperation with other FLS leaders and the ANC, in attempts at finding a so-called solution to the RSA's 'problem'. The following is inter alia known in this regard:

—At the request of President Kaunda and President Mugabe, the ANC compiled a document containing its viewpoints concerning negotiation with the RSA Government, which was reportedly discussed on August 10, 1989 in Lusaka at a summit meeting of the OAU.

Last-mentioned inter alia took place in preparation of a meeting of the OAU's subcommittee for southern Africa under the chairmanship of Husni Mubarak, (new secretary-general of the OAU) at which an attempt is reportedly to be made to formulate a "united African nationalist position" with regard to discussion/negotiation with the RSA Government. The viewpoint will also be submitted to the Non-aligned Movement.

The above activities are mainly aimed at inter alia:

—Formulating a consolidated viewpoint with regard to discussion/negotiation in which the ANC and PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] can be accommodated in order to obtain the initiative for a possible negotiation process.

The ANC is enjoying the protection of President Kaunda and is planning insurgency activities against South Africa from Lusaka. In view of the general election of 6 September 1989, and the deliberate attempts at disruption, I am of the opinion that it is inopportune to meet with President Kaunda at this stage.

On Friday, August 11, Mr de Klerk sent me a fax which reads as follows: 'Following my request this morning,'—that was by telephone—'it would be appreciated if you would meet a delegation of National Party ministers on an urgent basis at a time and venue of your choice. My office will inquire late this afternoon at your office about a decision.'

In reply, I faxed the following letter to Mr de Klerk: 'I am surprised to hear that you wish to organise a delegation of ministers. A meeting of the cabinet is being arranged for Monday morning, August 14 1989 at 0830 at Tuynhuys.'

I shall not approve a visit to Dr Kaunda by ministers at this stage.

This morning I had discussions lasting a few hours with members of the cabinet about my point of view. They all had the opportunity of putting forward their point of view. With their permission, a tape recording was made of the proceedings.

Arising from their meeting on Saturday in Pretoria, they proposed to me that I should depart for my private residence and appoint an acting state president until after September 6.

I asked them what reason I could offer for such a step. They replied that I could use my health as an excuse.

To this I replied that I am not prepared to leave on a lie and I have consequently decided to submit my resignation to the chief justice today with effect from 15 August 1989.

It is evident to me that after all these years of my best efforts for the National Party and for the government of this country as well as the security of our country, I am being ignored by ministers serving in my cabinet. I consequently have no choice other than to announce my resignation.

I thank the thousands of friends of South Africa of all language groups who, through the years, have shown their good will towards me and my wife. We leave this post with memories of friendship and loyalty.

I thank the public service.

I thank members of our security services from the highest officer to the youngest members and their families.

I thank all within and outside politics who have carried us by their loyalty and friendship through so many years.

It is my sincere prayer that all will be well with our country, its security and its peace.

Good night.

**De Klerk, Pik Botha Interviewed**

MB1408185589 Johannesburg Television Service  
in Afrikaans 1817 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Interview with F.W. de Klerk, leader of the national party, and Foreign Minister Pik Botha by Clarence Keyter; from the "Network" program—live]

[Text] [Keyter] Good evening to you both, Mr de Klerk, and Mr Botha. Welcome to Network. Mr de Klerk, let us begin with you. What is your reaction now, at the end of what must surely be one of the most stormy days in South African politics?

[De Klerk] It has indeed been a dramatic day, but it was a particularly heartbreaking day. The resignation of State President Botha comes at the end of a long career in which he has made deep tracks in South Africa. We are very sorry. We are sorry that a man who did so much for his country, did so much pioneering work, with so much daring and faith as minister and later as state president—led South Africa—we are sorry that he has to resign under these unfortunate circumstances.

The National Party [NP] and all that I stand for in public life deeply appreciate what he has done, and nothing that has happened can take away from that appreciation.

[Keyter] Let us move to the contents of the state president's statement, which we have seen. The impression one gets is that the NP under its new leadership has deviated from its old views on negotiation with the ANC [African National Congress].

[De Klerk] I would like to state immediately that that is not so. I have made the NP view on negotiations with the ANC and other organizations very clear during the party's Cape provincial congress. At the time I said and reaffirmed that the NP says it is prepared to negotiate with all who do not threaten violence and who are dedicated to peaceful solutions.

As long as the ANC disqualifies itself in this regard, we are not in favor of negotiating with them.

This morning, during my introductory remarks at the meeting, I again made this very clear to the state president. So, it cannot be said that the NP, by speaking to heads of state like President Kaunda, has considered or accepted a change of attitude on this point.

[Keyter] What do you say to the state president's statement that the cabinet, during today's meeting in Cape Town, proposed that the state should return to his Wilderness residence for health reasons?

[De Klerk] That is, indeed, what we proposed, and I made that proposal, that the state president should rest and appoint an acting president. The reasons are that we feel and believe that his health justifies this. It is not true that we tried to use his health as a smokescreen to solve

a difficult problem. We believe that it would have been in his interest. He eventually decided to resign, and I believe that that decision, following our discussion, is in the best interests of South Africa at this stage.

[Keyter] Mr de Klerk, I think any voter who was watching the program will ask himself and would like to hear it from you: What repercussions will today's events have on the September election?

[De Klerk] None, in the strict sense of the word. Electioneering will continue, administration will carry on as usual, the election will be strictly administered, and everyone can rest assured that these events will not affect the daily running of affairs and effective administration. Opposition parties will naturally try to make political capital of the state president's reasons and his explanation. I must say that the signs that I am observing, especially from the Conservative Party, are totally unacceptable now that they are suddenly, after recently attacking his integrity and honesty in connection with the transportation of game in official vehicles, appearing as his saviors, as Dr Treurnicht did the other night at a public meeting. I find that unpleasant and unacceptable.

We will use every opportunity to place this matter in its proper perspective and clear up any erroneous deductions that may be made.

[Keyter] I must ask you a bit about the overseas visits to which the state president refers in his statement. According to that statement, one gets the impression that you did not perhaps follow the normal procedures for such overseas visits. Your reaction?

[De Klerk] I would like to comment on that in general, and I hope my colleague, when you question him, will use the opportunity to give more details about this. My overseas visits were, on the whole, the result of invitations from heads of state. Neither my office nor I had anything to do with the logistics, the arrangements, of these visits. It was a foreign affairs matter and therefore in the hands of my colleague. Let me just say that neither any of my colleagues in cabinet nor I have treated the state president with disrespect or in any way neglected to abide by regulations in the past 6 months or more. On the contrary, we have behaved with the greatest circumspection and respect toward him, and I therefore cannot agree that there were any deviations from the regulations.

[Keyter] Fine. At this point, I wish to turn to you, Mr Botha. Still on the same point, the state president in his statement denies that he was informed about these foreign visits.

[Botha] I am afraid that is not correct. I am very sorry to have to say that I believe, with all due respect to the state president, that his memory is at fault. I do not wish to argue with him on that point tonight, because we all bade farewell to him today with regret. The fact is—and the country must know this, and it is my duty that I make it

very clear here—take, for example, the visit to Britain. Mr de Klerk cannot help it, and neither can I, if British sources apparently leak the fact that Mrs Thatcher would like to meet Mr de Klerk. But I can only act if something official lands on my desk. Whenever such an official invitation arrived, I telephoned the president and explained it to him.

I do not think he can blame me if I say candidly that on the whole he was not in favor of these matters. We differed, but we sorted out our differences in a civilized manner. Every one of those visits took place correctly and within the framework of the president's prescribed regulations and/or guidelines.

[Keyter] If I may refer to Dr Kaunda since a large part of the statement tonight referred to the role Dr Kaunda is playing in Africa: What about South Africa's future relations with Dr Kaunda and other African leaders?

[Botha] Dr Kaunda's position, and that is the irony, is nothing more or less than other African leaders. In every African state, except for, perhaps Swaziland and Lesotho, the ANC are represented. Their headquarters are in London and if that is the norm, then the state president should never have met Mrs Thatcher, Mr Kohl, the Italian president, or the Portuguese prime minister. They are there; it is well known.

Second, I want to clarify something here tonight. Speculation on the possibility of a visit to Dr Kaunda began in July, when press reports appeared that Dr Kaunda invited Minister de Klerk. We did not react to the press reports. I sent my director general to Dr Kaunda and asked him to find out exactly what Dr Kaunda meant. On his return, he told me that they wanted to meet the new NP leader and learn more about him and to give him the opportunity of learning more about Dr Kaunda. Further, he had read Minister de Klerk's speeches, which were positive, and would like to question him about what he meant by the elimination of discrimination and other aspects in that connection. As far as we were concerned, this was a positive development.

The state president advised us both, and we went to see him. The day when he returned from Europe, we went to him after a cabinet meeting and asked him how he felt about the matter. He felt that we should consult certain leadership members. We consulted them. None of those leaders opposed the meeting and gave us the impression that it was our decision. So, before last week, as far as we are concerned, as far as I am concerned, there was approval in principle for the visit.

When Minister de Klerk and I returned from a visit to President Chissano, Mr de Klerk told me that he had a very busy program because in the meantime more invitations had come from other African leaders. He asked me whether these visits should be postponed because of the election and his full program. I agreed with him.

Then we decided to explain this to Dr Kaunda. He was not happy with this. He wanted to meet the new NP leader. What happened last week was that I returned from Cape Town, where I attended meetings with the state president. I was met by Mr van Heerden, my director general, and senior officials on arrival here at the airport.

They told me that there was a threatening meeting at the United Nations in New York which focused on former Koevoet [police counterinsurgency unit] members in the South-West African police force and that ominous clouds were appearing on the horizon with ugly implications for the whole independence process in Namibia and the timetable for a Cuban withdrawal.

I discussed the matter with them. I felt that, with the Frontline States' meeting coming up that Thursday, we would have to urgently get in touch with a number of heads of state who would be attending the meeting. We did. I will not say with whom, but that evening I sent three or four officials. They returned Wednesday night or evening.

On Wednesday, I got the news that there were problems between President Mobutu and Dr Savimbi. President Mobutu's party arrived here at 0500 that Thursday morning. Dr Savimbi arrived later in the day. From 0930 that morning I sat trying to work out what we could do to settle the argument. By the afternoon, I was told that President Kaunda had announced that he would meet Mr de Klerk and me.

As soon as I heard that, I dropped the negotiations I was busy with between these two groups of African leaders. I excused myself, phoned the state president, and informed him that I had been in contact with Dr Kaunda and had told him that Mr de Klerk would like to meet him, and that we would like to discuss the latest developments in southern Africa.

I had called the president earlier at The Wilderness; he is correct. I told him of the course of the talks with the Mobutu party and Dr Savimbi's party. Thereafter he returned to Westbrook. I phoned him there, reported to him, and his reaction was: Very well, arrange your African visit as you see fit. That cannot be denied. There were officials from my department; my private secretary, who normally arranges this kind of phone call, he was there with me, as well as another official. They heard what I said. But I do not like to speak about this kind of thing.

[Keyter] Mr Botha, it is obvious that you are directly affected by the president's statement about the visits, whether they ought to have taken place or not. After this stormy day in which the state president resigned, the nation would like to know about tomorrow and the road ahead.

[Botha] Tomorrow the cabinet will choose a new head of state, albeit in an acting capacity, in the person of Mr F.W. de Klerk. Immediately after that, he will be sworn

in. He has already made it known that if that takes place, a cabinet meeting will be held immediately, as is usual, and we will proceed to discuss matters of interest to the country and to make decisions. The next day, a meeting of the state Security Council will take place.

I would just like to mention that the dignity, decency, and sincere Christianity with which Mr de Klerk handled today's events will be written in the annals of our history to his credit. We all feel sad about today, but today is past and the future lies ahead of us. We will face that future under the leadership of Mr de Klerk. The cabinet—and I say this as senior minister—have full confidence in him, great appreciation for his tolerance, his courage, his decisive action today, on the one hand, but also his sadness and humanity on the other. This is the man who will be leading this country into the new age, negotiating and creating the new future for us and all our people.

[Keyter] Mr de Klerk, on behalf of Network, congratulations. A final word from you?

[De Klerk] I wish to call on the press, the public, and all political leaders that we now grant Mr Botha the opportunity to retire in peace and happiness with his family; that we stop making him the target of speculation; that we grant him that which he decided he would like to do. Tomorrow we proceed to build with new momentum, the new South Africa we wish to establish.

[Keyter] Mr de Klerk, Mr Botha, thank you both very much.

**Acting President's Swearing in Planned for 15 Aug**  
*MB1408183789 Johannesburg SAPA in English*  
1836 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Pretoria Aug 14 SAPA—The government's Bureau for Information tonight issued an invitation to the media to cover the swearing in tomorrow morning of the country's "new acting state president".

The invitation gave no hint of who would be sworn in as acting executive head of state, but it is commonly believed National Party leader F.W. de Klerk would fill the post.

State President P.W. Botha announced his resignation tonight on a national television broadcast after a public row erupted between him and Mr de Klerk last Friday over plans to meet President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

The resignation comes into effect at midnight.

The swearing in will take place at the union buildings at 11am.

### **Pik Botha: De Klerk New President**

*MB1408190389 Johannesburg SAPA in English*  
1902 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Pretoria Aug 14 SAPA—The Government's Bureau for Information tonight issued an invitation to the media to cover the swearing in tomorrow morning of the country's "new acting state president".

The invitation gave no hint of who would be sworn in as acting executive head of state, but Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on SABC TV1's network news programme tonight National Party leader F.W. de Klerk would fill the post until after the September 6 election.

The swearing would be preceded by a cabinet meeting tomorrow morning.

A state Security Council meeting would follow some time after the swearing in ceremony.

### **De Klerk Sworn in**

*MB1508095589 Johannesburg SAPA in English*  
0955 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Pretoria Aug 15 SAPA—Mr F.W. de Klerk was sworn in at the Union Buildings in Pretoria as acting state president today after having been unanimously designated by the cabinet.

He and the chief justice, Mr Justice M.M. Corbett, both signed the oath, in terms of Article 11 of the Constitution, after Mr de Klerk had recited it in English and Afrikaans.

The brief ceremony took place in the west wing of the Union Buildings—the section used by the president—and was witnessed by the cabinet, duty ministers, and about 50 reporters.

Mrs Marike de Klerk, wearing a white dress and pearls, was seated next to her husband.

Dr Jannie Roux, the secretary-general of the state president's office, presided at the ceremony, standing directly behind Mr de Klerk and the chief justice.

Mr de Klerk was unanimously designated by the cabinet today after the former state president, Mr P.W. Botha, failed to name him as acting president yesterday.

According to documents released today, Mr P.W. Botha received a faxed reply from the chief justice, acknowledging receipt of his letter of resignation, at 3.06pm yesterday.

Mr F.W. de Klerk was scheduled to address a news conference at the union buildings shortly after the ceremony.

### News Conference Follows

MB1508111589 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English  
1100 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The acting state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, says if voters enable him to assume the post of state president after the election on 6 September he will try to create a new spirit of cooperation within the framework of the mandate which the National Party is seeking. Mr de Klerk was sworn in at the Union Buildings in Pretoria this morning by Chief Justice M.M. Corbett.

Mr de Klerk said at a news conference afterwards that South Africa and southern Africa were undoubtedly on the brink of a new era. Mr de Klerk said that he hoped that South Africans would have the courage and the vision necessary to break the circle of violence, tension, and isolation in the country.

He praised his predecessor, Mr P.W. Botha, and his wife, Mrs Elize Botha. He said that Mr Botha had served South Africa with distinction in many spheres, and that Mrs Botha had been a tower of strength. Mr de Klerk said the fact that Mr Botha's resignation had been accompanied by tension and controversy did not negate the government's need to recognize the key role which Mr Botha had played in South Africa for so long. Mr de Klerk said Mr Botha's place in history, alongside the country's other great leaders, was already assured.

The acting state president announced that the new parliament would meet on 13 September. On the same day, an electoral college would choose a state president and a speaker.

In answer to a question, Mr de Klerk said that in principle he would still hold talks with President Kaunda on 28 August if this was still possible.

### KaNgwane Congratulates De Klerk

MB1508120089 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1144 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Louieville Aug 15 SAPA—The KaNgwane government today wished Mr F.W. de Klerk well in his new position as acting state president.

"At this critical juncture our country requires a leader capable of bold initiatives, who will have the courage to move towards establishing a just, non-racial democracy in a united South Africa," the minister to the cabinet and acting chief minister of KaNgwane, Mr M.C. Zitha, said in a statement.

"It is hoped that Mr de Klerk will emerge as a national leader of all South Africa's people and not merely of a section of the white minority."

On behalf of the KaNgwane government, Mr Zitha also wished Mr P.W. Botha a peaceful retirement.

### Tutu Urges De Klerk Declare Post-Election Amnesty

MB1508122389 Umtata Capital Radio in English  
1200 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Archbishop Desmond Tutu has advised De Klerk to declare an amnesty after the 6 September election. Tutu says he could also lift the state of emergency and curbs on restricted people. He says he felt very sorry for P.W. Botha, because he looked on television, in his words, a pathetic figure. But Tutu says he [words indistinct] country was entering a new phase, he said he did not think it mattered who was in power if they were all members of the National Party.

### Defense Minister Discusses Cabinet Meeting

MB1408200289 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2001 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Pretoria Aug 14 SAPA—The minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said today's meeting with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, was necessary because the "country could not continue to go ahead in uncertainty."

Speaking in Pretoria West at 7pm—an hour before Mr P.W. Botha made his resignation announcement—Gen Malan said: "I wish to make some remarks on the position of our state president and the meeting of the cabinet which took place this morning in Cape Town.

"I want to tell you this—it was a positive meeting. It was necessary that this meeting take place.

"It is obvious that our country could not continue to go ahead in uncertainty," he said.

"Also, in so far as our party is concerned, we dare not allow uncertainty to increase or that wedges be driven between the leaders of the NP [National Party]," he said.

Gen Malan said he could not disclose what had happened in the inner circles of the cabinet—nor did he wish to anticipate under any circumstances—the decisions taken by Mr Botha, which he would be announcing within the hour.

"I have too much respect for him as a wise man, a man with great insight—a man who has served our party through thick and thin, and who is still serving it," he said.

"We are standing too close to his history to judge his greatness. But I believe that historians of the future will properly describe his value and meaning to South Africa."

Mr Botha had built "many monuments along the road of South Africa." He referred to what Mr Botha had done for human relationships and decency in South Africa by bringing Indians and coloureds into Parliament.

Two "visible beacons" of Mr Botha's path in South Africa had been the creation of Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa], when he realised the partial boycotts of the 1960's were the start of such actions, and turning the defence force into a "truly South African Defence Force."

"It was Mr P.W. Botha who taught the country that you cannot compromise with terrorists or make an agreement with them," said Gen Malan, which remained the course of the NP, as stated at the Cape congress by its leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk.

"Whatever happens in the next few days—yes, even that which could happen in the next hour—I want to say one thing to you:

"The leadership corps of the NP are united. They are dedicated to serving South Africa, the NP and you. This happens because the interests of the country have always been the deciding interests, and because the NP has always put South Africa first."

**Pik Botha Comments on Resignation in Randburg**  
*MB1408205989 Johannesburg SAPA in English*  
*2054 GMT 14 Aug 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 14 SAPA—The drama which took place at today's cabinet meeting, in which the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, was asked to step down, was described by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, tonight.

Speaking at an election meeting in Randburg near here he said it had been "monumentally sad" to take leave of Mr P.W. Botha.

"We all bid him farewell one at a time and to see him walk out of the cabinet room door was not a sight I wish to see every day.

"I felt a profound feeling of appreciation towards him."

He paid tribute to Mr Botha for his role in removing discriminatory legislation.

Mr Botha said he was convinced that state president had not been deliberately obstructive in his dealing with the National Party but had merely forgotten what had been reported to him.

Mr P.W. Botha had always been concerned about the security of the country.

"An era has ended with dignity and with firmness.

"What happened today had to be done in the interests of South Africa."

He said the National Party had contradicted all the dire predictions made by the press and opposition parties as to the outcome of its dispute with the state president.

"They all said the Nats will not be able to resolve this crisis. It was a very serious crisis there was no question about it. But we did something about it."

He said Mr F.W. de Klerk, the president-elect, had handled the matter with compassion and firmness he had remained calm at all times, never losing his temper.

Mr Botha said Mr de Klerk would be sworn in as the acting state president tomorrow. The meeting was cut short after the chairman, Mr Olaus van Zyl, said Mr Botha had had no sleep for 48 hours and was exhausted.

Mr Botha received a standing ovation from a crowd of about 500 people when he arrived at the meeting soon after having been interviewed on SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] television.

**Further on Comments**

*MB1508073389 Johannesburg Television Service*  
*in Afrikaans 0430 GMT 15 Aug 89*

[Text] Foreign Minister Pik Botha says the newly resigned state president made a greater contribution to reform in South Africa than all his predecessors together. Speaking at a meeting in Randburg last night, the minister praised Mr P.W. Botha for his selfless service to the country. He said it was under the leadership of Mr P.W. Botha that all discriminatory legislation was abolished, and that his peace initiatives made South Africa worthy of respect.

[Begin Botha video recording in English] It was under his leadership that sport was totally integrated in this country. He took the (?plunge) that we withdrew the pass laws, in?ux control. To do this, the influx control network [words indistinct] withdrawal amendment could be [words indistinct] laws and proclamations.

It was under his leadership that we announced that parity in education, standards in education, should become a governmental objective. It was under his leadership that we withdrew the all-white clause in the immigration laws. It was under his leadership that we opened up and integrated, right across the country, many public facilities. It was under his leadership that South Africa found a new place. He took the first steps. He was willing to do so. He did more for change in this country than all his predecessors could do [word indistinct] [end recording]

Mr Botha took the Conservative Party [CP] to task for crying to make political capital out of the situation.

[Begin Botha video recording] What is particularly interesting is that Dr Treurnicht (?portrays) himself as the great patron of President Botha. Barely 2 or 3 weeks ago, I cannot remember exactly how long ago, a CP member,

a certain Dr Jakobs, I think it was, a lecturer in law, tried to convince the whole country that just about every possible regulation under the sun had been broken by President Botha when he (?shot) some buck for a friend in the Orange Free State. Now, suddenly, in the past few days, Dr Treurnicht has become the great patron of the president. He tells the country that the president is fully entitled to fire F.W. de Klerk and Pik Botha in particular. [end recording]

Mr Botha said yesterday was a sad day for both South Africa and Mr P.W. Botha, but that Mr F.W. de Klerk had handled a particularly difficult situation excellently.

[Begin Botha video recording in English] But he did it in a dignified way, with compassion, never losing his temper, and in this way has established himself as the leader that can be trusted with South Africa's future. If he could be trusted with this very delicate situation, and if he could handle it with so much dignity and yet firmness, why would you not entrust him with the future of this country? [end recording]

#### Various National Figures Comment on Resignation

##### **Buthelezi: Resignation Inevitable**

MB1408193789 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1924 GMT 14 Aug 89

[SAPA PR wire service; issued by the chief minister Buthelezi's office, Ulundi]

[Text] August 14 [dateline as received]—Statement on the clash between the leader of the National Party Mr F.W. de Klerk and the state president on the proposed meeting between Mr de Klerk and President Kaunda.

It is tragic, because it is so unnecessary for the state president to resign over an issue such as Mr F.W. de Klerk's possible meeting with President Kaunda. It is ironic that when South Africa sat with the USSR, Cuba, Angola and the United States to produce the Brazzaville protocol that there should be a problem about the president-elect of the Republic of South Africa meeting Dr Kaunda, the chairman of the Frontline States, whose destinies and that of South Africa are so inextricably intertwined. It was however obvious from the beginning that a situation that was untenable was created when Mr Botha resigned as leader of the ruling party and yet retained the presidency. It was an impossible situation, because they could not both call the shots. Thus the present debacle. In a sense the present situation was inevitable, and what is ironic is that it was created by President Botha's own decision.

[Signed] Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi, chief minister and president of Inkatha.

[Issued] 14 August 1989, Ulundi.

##### **United Democratic Front Reacts**

MB1408194089 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1927 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 14 SAPA—No oppressed South African mourned the resignation of Mr P.W. Botha as it was under his rule that the suffering of the people increased many fold, acting general secretary for the United Democratic Front (UDF), Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, said tonight.

"He introduced the state of emergency, which resulted in the detention of thousands of innocent people, the restriction of over 30 organisations and the occupation of our townships by soldiers," he said.

However, for oppressed South Africans his resignation had little relevance as it was merely the man who was going and not the policy of apartheid.

"P.W. Botha will simply be replaced by another NP [National Party] member like F.W. de Klerk.

"Mr de Klerk was party to the disastrous policies of the government under P.W. Botha's rule.

"The well-orchestrated campaign against P.W. Botha by his former colleagues is an attempt on the part of the...state president and others to create the false impression that P.W. Botha alone was responsible for the deep political and economic crises which this country is in."

Mr Moosa said the crises was of their collective making. "The mass democratic movement demands the government as a whole resigns so that democracy and peace may be established once and for all.

"We restate our intentions to intensify the defiance campaign which is sweeping through the country.

"It is now abundantly clear that white minority rule is doomed.

"We call on white South Africans to correctly read the significance of the in-fighting of the ruling party and abandon their support for the government."

##### **Van zyl Slabbert Comments**

MB1408194689 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1932 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 14 SAPA—As leader of the National Party, P.W. Botha brought about more change away from apartheid/separate development than any of his predecessors—but he leaves hardly anyone grateful for the manner in which he did so, eminent extra-parliamentary politician Dr van zyl Slabbert said this evening.

President announced his resignation on nationwide television this evening.

Mr Slabbert said the president "combined repression and reform with equal unpredictability and lack of vision.

"Even now we still do not know where he wanted South Africa [SA] to go...right unto the end, he wanted to be in charge."

Mr Botha had left behind a militarised and polarised society, a confused and divided National Party, a weakened economy that was increasingly isolated internationally and the dominance of extra-parliamentary politics in the constitutional future of SA.

"Even his pathetic tirade against the ANC [African National Congress] and Kaunda was an attempt to do the maximum electoral damage to his successor, whilst implicitly acknowledging the centrality of the ANC's position in negotiation," said Dr Slabbert.

"Against this background, De Klerk has the awesome task of dragging the National party and White politics into negotiation as we enter the last decade of the century. Botha on one level remained consistent to the end—he could not even resign with grace and dignity."

#### **Democrats Term Resignation 'Tragic'**

MB1408211489 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2113 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 14 SAPA—The co-leaders of the Democratic Party said tonight Mr P.W. Botha's resignation as state president was "tragic" as it came at a time when the country needed decisive and imaginative leadership.

A statement by Dr Denis Worrall, Mr Wynand Malan and Dr Zach de Beer also paid tribute to Mr Botha, saying he had achieved a great deal in his political career "even if this was at times simply as a result of bowing to pressure".

"It is tragic that at a time when South Africa needs decisive and imaginative leadership, political infighting based primarily on personalities has led to the state president's resignation in this fashion," the statement said.

"The Democratic Party has differed with Mr Botha on many occasions and on a variety of issues. These differences have frequently been sharp. Mr P.W. Botha has achieved a great deal in his political career even if this was at times simply as a result of bowing to pressure. History will be the judge of his accomplishment. We wish him a peaceful and enjoyable retirement," the statement, received by SAPA in Johannesburg, said.

"However, to see the head of state and the head of the National Party wrangling in public and over television was both unedifying and distasteful, particularly as these people are charged with the running of the country.

"It is extraordinary that such distinctly different interpretations exist about Mr de Klerk's overseas trip. Furthermore, it is evident that very different standards

apply within the National Party. President P.W. Botha not only met...Mr Nelson Mandela, but also with President Kenneth Kaunda when the situation was no different from that of today.

"Yet Mr P.W. Botha will not allow his colleagues the same opportunities. It is obvious to all that the National Party is sharply divided on the vital issues of consultation and negotiation. This constitutes a very real credibility problem for the National Party leadership.

"Now that the state president has resigned, the DP asks is there likely to be unanimity? What are the National Party's views on these issues? The DP calls for clarification in this regard. To that end, we ask that the tapes of the relevant conversations be released to the press and to the public. South Africa is not facing a constitutional crisis as much as a political one.

"The events of today represent a critical stage in our history. There are opportunities now, which taken and exploited, will allow South Africa to move decisively towards a democratic political settlement and the economic reconstruction needed to renew our moribund economy. Now is the time for statesmanship.

"We doubt that Mr de Klerk has this capacity but the final judgment we leave to the electorate, confident in the knowledge that the Democratic Party has the ability, talent and vision to manage and direct South Africa on the path of real security, constitutional vision and economic growth."

#### **Boerestaat Party Reacts**

MB1508044889 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0430 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 15 SAPA—Intrigue has been a tradition of the National Party ever since the death of Dr W.J. Verwoerd, said the Boerestaat Party this morning.

In a statement to the press the Boerestaat Party said:

"Since the death of Dr Verwoerd intrigue and plotting has been a tradition of the National Party.

"First Dr Albert Hertzog was pushed out by Mr Vorster. In his turn Mr Vorster and Dr Connie Mulder were pushed out by Mr Botha. Now Mr Botha's hour has arrived and Mr de Klerk has successfully squeezed him out.

"Hy wat n ander jaag staan self nie stil nie [He who chases another does not himself stand still]."

The statement said the "question is, how soon Mr de Klerk will be squeezed out?

After the election he will find that his strong bases, Transvaal and the [Orange] Free State have largely shifted to the Conservative Party and without the necessary caucus support he will have to constantly watch over his shoulder."

Consequently South Africa would endure a "period of great internal political instability" and the "country can no longer afford the National Party," said the statement.

"All the pretty speeches of Mr F.W. de Klerk and Mr Pik Botha cannot disguise the fact that these two gentlemen paved the way for surrender to the ANC [African National Congress] and a black majority government."

It said a "black state president" was now a "reality especially in view of Mr Pik Botha's clear acquiescence to such a prospect".

The Boerestaat Party said it regarded the "restoration" of a "Boere Republic" an essential for "survival" its people and that after September 5 it would act "vigorously to ensure" this "prospect" came to nought.

#### **Lebowa's Ramodike: Botha Set Example**

MB1508060589 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English  
0500 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The chief minister of Lebowa, Mr Nelson Ramodike, said that Mr P.W. Botha would be remembered as the first South African leader to take meaningful steps towards reform. He said that the South African people owed much to Mr Botha, and that to all white and black leaders he had set an example worth following. Mr Ramodike said, though, that as a black leader and a patriotic South African, he did not see why negotiations between South Africa and neighboring black states could not continue.

#### **Solidarity's Reddy Comments**

MB1508060089 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English  
0500 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The leader of Solidarity in the House of Representatives, Dr J.N. Reddy, said that it was unfortunate that Mr Botha had had to resign because of problems surrounding the proposed visit to Dr Kaunda. Dr Reddy said in Durban that Mr de Klerk now needed the unqualified support of the people to negotiate not only with Dr Kaunda, but also with other African leaders who had helped to bring peace and stability to southern Africa.

#### **SAPA Analyzes Botha Speech, Affect on Election**

MB1408205289 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2033 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 14 SAPA—President P.W. Botha tonight announced his resignation in an unprecedented television broadcast to the nation, only to see his justification dismissed at once by the man who will succeed him, F.W. de Klerk, and Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Occasionally stumbling over his words, President Botha read a long and sometimes rambling prepared statement on television and no longer looked the man who had for 11 years led the government with a firm hand.

He declared that his cabinet ministers had been ignoring him over trips abroad, that at today's cabinet meeting they had suggested he resign for health reasons, but he had refused to leave on a lie.

As soon as his statement ended, an interview with Mr de Klerk and Mr Pik Botha was screened, enabling them to reply to all President Botha's points.

Their appearance and manner contrasted starkly with President Botha's, as did their forward-looking approach to meeting African heads of state contrast with President Botha's flat rejection of such contact with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

Both ministers made it clear they believed President Botha was no longer in a state of health necessary for the office, and that he should go and enjoy a rest. His decision to resign was in the best interests of the country.

Tomorrow the cabinet would meet to elect Mr de Klerk as acting state president and the government would then get on with running the country.

Mr de Klerk, already leader of the National Party [NP], now takes full control of the government as well in the last three weeks before the general election on September 6.

The sudden breaking of the leadership crisis is a new factor in the election campaign. Mr de Klerk has the opportunity to present himself as the man of the future, yet the opposition parties will also seek advantage from the historic event.

The leadership crisis behind him, Mr de Klerk must assess what damage it has done to his party and what the Conservative [CP] and Democratic Parties [DP] are going to gain from the manner of President Botha's going.

The right wing CP will try to capitalise on President Botha's strong condemnation tonight of the proposed meeting between Mr de Klerk and President Kaunda because of Zambia's support for the African National Congress.

It will also tend to weaken the attack the NP on the DP based on the allegation that the DP is soft on security and has gone too far by meeting the ANC. It will heighten interest among voters and bring fresh life to the political scene.

**SAPA Reviews Constitution on Appointing President**  
*MB1408222989 Johannesburg SAPA in English*  
2226 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Cape Town August 14 SAPA—Should the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, resign tonight with immediate effect, a new state president has to be elected within a month by the Electoral College, according to the constitution.

This will in any event happen as a result of the September 6 poll.

The constitution states that in the meantime, an acting state president, who must be a member of the cabinet, must be appointed. The sections dealing with the appointment of an acting president allows the president to appoint the cabinet member, failing which his fellow cabinet members must do so.

An Electoral College summoned by the chief justice to elect a state president may only sit not less than 14 days after notice for its sitting is published in the Government Gazette, or within seven days of the first session of a new parliament following a general election.

In terms of the constitution, the following sections apply:

Section 7 (3) (C): If the state president dies or for any other reason vacates his office before the expiration of his period of office and his successor in office has then not yet been elected, (the Electoral College sitting must) be (on) a date not more than one month after the office becomes vacant: provided that if the state president resigns and intimates in his resignation lodged with the chief justice in terms of Section 9 (4) that he will vacate his office on a day not less than one month after the date of the lodging of his resignation, a date earlier than the day on which the office becomes vacant, shall be fixed.

Section 10 (1): Whenever the state president is for any reason unable to perform the duties of his office, a member of the cabinet nominated by the state president shall serve as acting state president.

(2) Whenever—

- (A) The state president is unable to nominate a member of the cabinet in terms of subsection (1); or
  - (B) The member so nominated is for any reason unable to act; or
  - (C) The office of state president is vacant and there is no member so nominated or the member so nominated is unable to act, a member of the cabinet designated by the remaining members thereof shall serve as acting state president during the incapacity of the state president or the member nominated by him, as the case may be, or until a state president has been elected and has assumed office.
- (3) (A) If a member of the cabinet serves as acting state president in terms of a designation under subsection (2) during the incapacity of the state president or of the member nominated by him, and the speaker of parliament is at any time of the opinion

that neither the state president nor his nominee will be able to resume the duties of his office within 60 days from the date on which his incapacity set in, the speaker shall in writing inform the acting state president and the chief justice accordingly, and thereupon a member of the cabinet shall without delay be designated as acting state president by an Electoral College *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with Sections 7 and 8.

(B) When the acting state president so designated by the Electoral College assumes office, any nominated or designation made under subsection (1) or (2) shall lapse.

(C) The acting state president so designated by the Electoral College shall serve as such during the incapacity of the state president or until a state president has been elected and has assumed office, as the circumstances may require.

(4) Whenever it is in any of the circumstances mentioned above not possible to nominate or designate an acting state president, the speaker of parliament shall serve as acting state president.

**BUSINESS DAY: Botha Resignation 'Relief'**

*MB1508083989 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY*  
in English 15 Aug 89 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] Power is a wicked mistress, one that searches out every flaw of character in those that possess it, but seldom is the process as dramatic, or ultimately as pitiful, as in the last days of the presidency of Pieter Willem Botha. His resignation, delivered with a bitter vengefulness towards his own political party and in disregard of the wider interests of the nation, will be greeted with relief by most South Africans. Seldom, if ever, has this country had a leader more widely detested; it is well that he has gone.

The temptation, now that he has finally gone, is to let well alone and say no more. But greater issues are at stake.

They are, in order of importance: the constitutional crisis in which this country has languished since the woeful decision to overthrow the familiar and tested Westminster system in order to try to create a reformist "De Gaulle", the political crisis which the departed State President tried, like Samson in Gaza, to precipitate in the dying moments of his presidency; and the question of relations with Zambia while it plays host to the ANC [African National Congress].

The first of these questions is most demanding of attention. Former President Botha was destroyed, in the end, by the immense and unjustifiable powers conferred on him by the constitution—the "calamitously flawed constitution", it was called by some of its own supporters at the time of its adoption—and the same constitution survives to do more damage. It was constructed deliberately to convert a

small-time politician, a man lacking in learning, experience or judgment, into a great statesman. The load of vanity, and the spurious grandeur, which this placed on the former President's precariously balanced ego was simply unsustainable. To have a "De Gaulle Option", it turns out, one must first have a Charles de Gaulle.

Now our Gaullist Pretender has gone, but the constitution remains to wreak further damage. It will, mark our words, search out the flaws of character in Botha's successor as unerringly as it found them in the ruined President. Lord Acton was not simply being amusing when he said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

For the moment, it is worth recalling that none of the brave men who "confronted" former President Botha yesterday, finding safety in numbers, ever had the courage to challenge him—or to prick his vanities or expose his self-delusions—until he was laid low by a stroke. Botha was a domineering bully of vile tempter and vengeful instincts, but he was formidable. Neither F.W. de Klerk, his likely successor, nor any other of the Cabinet, has a greater stature to carry the "Gaullist" load which the constitution imposes.

So first, as some said in 1983, this rubbish constitution, which has given us nothing but uproar and conflict and crisis, along with bucolic displays of nouveau royalty, must be scrapped. That task must top the political agenda for any same government that comes to power after September 6.

This brings us to the election. Former President Botha has done his best, in typically vengeful manner, to damage the electoral chances of his two chief tormentors, party leader De Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha. By raising, once again, the spectre of the ANC in this election campaign, and doing so in a manner to suggest that Pik Botha and De Klerk are innocents in the hands of manipulative Zambian president, the former President has played directly into the hands of the Conservative Party. The speculation is that he hopes to weaken the Transvaal Nationalist to the point where the Cape chooses the President, but that is a suicidally dangerous game.

On a wider screen, he has also done much to damage the diplomatic process which—to give him credit—he set in motion in Southern Africa. That he has done so in petulance, and as destructively as possible, simply affirms once again the weaknesses which, in the first place, rendered him unfit to possess the excessive powers which he had fashioned for himself. We can recall no more recklessly destructive person in the history of this country.

**Botha Resignation 'Repercussions' Expected**  
MB1508084789 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN  
in English 15 Aug 89 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] The resignation of the State President, Mr P.W. Botha, is a sad end to a political career that spanned four

decades, the exit of a powerful State President who brooked no opposition and ran the government and the country with an iron hand.

Yet, as one looks back on events of the past few months, it seems as if one was watching a Greek tragedy which could only end in the political demise of a once great leader.

One is touched by the fact that he should make his exit in such an unfortunate way and that, instead of going out nobly, to the plaudits of his party and his people, he inflicted on himself the mortal wounds.

Such is the tragedy of P.W. Botha.

Let there be no mistake about this—he was a great politician, a strong leader and a man of reform.

Nobody else could have put through the reforms he introduced, for he was able to command the respect, the loyalty and acceptance of his policies that only a man of his stature could engender.

Yet, despite his political acumen, he made the fatal mistake of dividing the office of the State President from that of leader of the ruling party, retaining all his awesome executive powers while the party leader had no power at all.

It need not have caused friction, but the man chosen as party leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk, was not the one Mr Botha would have preferred as his successor.

Nevertheless, there was still a possibility that the two could work together until Mr Botha's term of office expired, but this was not to be.

For one thing, Mr Botha carried his animosity towards Mr De Klerk to extreme lengths, not congratulating, Mr de Klerk as leader or acknowledging him as his successor.

Such rejection of the party's leader would have been intolerable at any time, but was more so when the party faced a tough and decisive election when the leader needed all the support he could get or deserved, including that of the State President.

Matters came to a head over the proposed talks between Mr de Klerk and President Kaunda of Zambia.

Mr Botha made a public issue over a claim that he was not consulted and had not given his approval.

There are suggestions that he was informed, though not timeously in the matter of the date of the meeting.

He could have accepted that there had been a misunderstanding. He did not do so. In fact, he wasn't prepared to see Cabinet Ministers who wished to meet him to clear up the situation.

Instead, he publicly rebuked both Mr de Klerk and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, whose department had arranged the visit.

The Cabinet rallied behind Mr de Klerk and called upon the State President to resign.

He had no alternative, since he had lost the confidence and support of his Cabinet.

Since Mr Botha's term of office was due to expire on September 6, and Mr de Klerk is likely to take over as acting State President, South Africa has not been plunged into a constitutional crisis.

Nevertheless, the resignation of the State President in such controversial circumstances is bound to have repercussions, the extent of which are not immediately clear.

We hope, and believe, it will not have any serious effect on the National Party's election chances.

Mr de Klerk has shown his mettle and has demonstrated that he is a strong leader, able to stand up to the State President with the conviction of a man who believes in the justness of his case.

If he is acting State President, Mr de Klerk will have the position he should have had when he became leader of the party.

When the dust settles, South Africa should benefit from his wise, positive and pragmatic leadership—and the new South Africa he has promised will become a reality.

**De Klerk Must Prove Ability, Willingness to Reform**  
MB1508091089 Johannesburg THE STAR  
in English 15 Aug 89 p 13

[By Esmare van der Merwe]

[Text] Mr F.W. de Klerk, the new National Party [NP] leader who will succeed State President P.W. Botha, can well be described as a man for all seasons.

For he has lately been termed "Left" by the political Right, after being considered on the verkrampte [ultra-conservative] side of the NP for years.

He has been accused of being "conservative" by the political Left, who frequently asks of him: "Will the real F.W. please stand up?"

Even the NP's verligte [enlightened] wing is suspicious of Mr de Klerk's ability, or willingness, to introduce meaningful reform.

This was demonstrated by the surprising support for Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis at the extraordinary Cabinet meeting in February where the NP had to choose a successor to Mr Botha.

Since his election as NP leader, Mr de Klerk (53) has provided South Africans and the world with the hope they so desperately looked for.

In his first speech to Parliament in February, he smilingly, confidently and amicably revealed his vision of the future. He spoke of "a totally changed South Africa", a country "free of domination or oppression in any form".

But present throughout—and ever since—was an emphasis on "group rights" which has fuelled his critics' belief that he is a closet conservative, a technocrat with no particular vision.

His supporters, also waiting for a clear indication of the way ahead, cautioned that nothing more than good intentions could be expressed as Mr de Klerk impatiently waited for Mr Botha to hand over the reins.

The international world welcomed the new man cautiously enthusiastically. His recent European tour was seen as a major victory and acknowledgement by world leaders such as Britain's Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

He was described as a sound, pragmatic man who inspired confidence.

In the months since his election as NP leader, he seems to have successfully consolidated the previously divided NP caucus. The entire caucus rallied behind their leader during yesterday's dramatic showdown with the President.

He has made it plain that he has taken the flickering reform torch from Mr Botha—who has never congratulated him on his election as NP leader—and intended to run with it.

But Mr de Klerk's real test still lies ahead. Undeniably in the power seat now, he will have to prove his ability to transform South Africa into the "totally changed" country he foresees.

An attorney by profession, Mr de Klerk's political career got off the ground in 1972 when he was elected MP for Vereeniging.

In 1975 he became information officer of the Transvaal NP, and in 1978 he was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

He subsequently held the portfolios of Social Welfare and Pensions, Sport and Recreation, Mining and Environmental Planning and Energy and Internal Affairs.

He became the NP's Transvaal leader in 1982 following the split in the NP.

In September 1984 he became Minister of Home Affairs and National Education, and in 1985 was appointed Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Assembly whilst remaining Minister of National Education in the Cabinet.

**END OF**

**FICHE**

**DATE FILMED**

16 Aug 1989

